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COMMUNICATIONS.

For the New-England Farmer.

RECRUITING GRASS LAND, &c.

MR. FESSENDEN—*Sir*, For a few years past, I have been trying, with some variation, the method of Elias Phinney, Esq. of laying down land to grass, by sowing upon the inverted sward, as recommended in his communication, published in the N. E. Farmer, vol. viii, page 42—an article which is worthy a yearly republication until Farmers shall more generally avail themselves of the benefit that may be derived from it.

My first experiment was commenced in 1830, on about one acre of ground, a sandy alluvion, rather heavy, which had been in grass for perhaps fifty years, and had formerly given two crops yearly, by means of frequent top-dressings of manure.

After having been neglected for some years, in 1829 it came into my possession and gave one crop of about three-fourths of a ton of pretty good stock hay. The ground was not suitable for English grain on account of the neighborhood of barberry bushes and perhaps other causes of blight, and I wished to keep it in mowing with as little interruption as would consist with profitable management. In order to do this, the question to settle was, whether a top-dressing of manure should be applied sufficient to wake up the old sward; or the usual rotation, including not less than two hoed crops and two dressings of manure, should be adopted; or the method proposed by Mr. Phinney. With a little variation I took the latter as being more expeditious than the rotation system, and more economical than the first mentioned.

In May 1830, the sward was well turned over with a furrow of from four to six inches deep, varying with the thickness of the sod and depth of soil. It was then rolled down smooth, a light dressing of manure spread on and harrowed in, and potatoes were planted in hills. Care was taken not to disturb the sod during the process of cultivation.

In September the crop was gathered. A most abundant growth of tops was obtained, and a fair crop of potatoes, injured however by dry weather. After digging the potatoes, the tops and weeds were collected and carted to the pig-yard for manure, and the ground immediately ploughed, with a light plough and one horse, so as not to disturb the sod; after which it was harrowed and sown with herds-grass and clover seed, and again harrowed and rolled. The grass seed was sown without any grain, came up well and grew finely until winter.

In the spring of 1831, I found the clover much killed, owing probably to its being sown so late. The herds-grass and what clover remained came on well and gave two crops, estimated at about one ton each, of very good hay. From the grass being so young the quality of the first crop was very similar to that of the second crop or rowen. In 1832 the first crop made hay of the first quality, and was estimated by a man of good judgment, who assisted in cutting it, to be three tons. The second cutting gave about three fourths of a ton. In 1833 it was cut but once; the crop was not as heavy as the first crop of 1832, but was very good. A large part of it was lodged, for some weeks before cutting. Estimated at from two to two and a half tons.

I think these results go far to prove the value of Mr. Phinney's method. With one ploughing and a light dressing of manure, I have had a fair crop of potatoes, and grass, making by estimation about eight tons of hay, from one acre of ground, in four years. This is undoubtedly a greater nett profit than was derived from the same ground, in any preceding ten years, and the land is now in better condition than it was in 1829, and the old sward which is quietly decomposing beneath the surface, will probably without further expense continue to send up good crops for some years. When turned up it will of itself form a mould sufficiently rich to give a good crop of corn or potatoes with little manure, and insure grass seed to take well again.

It will be perceived that the weight of the hay was estimated. As it was for "home consumption," I thought it not worth the while to be at the expense of driving it half a mile and weighing in order to ascertain the exact quantity, but considered an approximation to the truth in that respect sufficient for the purpose in view. If we did not very much over-estimate the quantity, I think it evidently a more economical application of labor and manure than the usual one of frequent ploughing, and as frequent exposure of the vegetable matter in the soil to the drying and dissipating influences of the sun and wind. I believe the effect of frequent ploughing is not as well observed by our farmers as it should be. So far as my observation goes, it is injurious; and I have but little doubt that our best soils might be exhausted and reduced to perfect barrenness, without a single cropping—only by frequent ploughing for several successive years. I could mention a case or two that would go far to prove this, were it necessary.

My next experiment was commenced in 1832 on a piece of about eight acres, in the same field with the other. The soil was rather lighter and more sandy, and had formerly been somewhat reduced by excessive working, but latterly had recruited by neglect. In 1831 it gave a crop of about half a ton of hay per acre, worth little more than the expense of getting.

In May 1832 it was nicely turned over with a furrow three or four inches deep; intending in no case to go below the top soil. After being rolled, about twenty or twenty-five cart-buck loads of compost manure (made by mixing one load of manure with two loads of meadow muck on good soil, and piling up in layers over winter,) were spread on each acre and harrowed in. It was then planted with corn, and cultivated with the harrow and hoe. No plough was used among it, and no hills were made. Before it was harrowed for the third hoeing, four quarts each of herds-grass and southern or June clover seed, and eight quarts of red-top seed were mingled and sown to an acre. Care was taken through the whole course not to displace the sods, and to keep the ground even, and at the last hoeing to prevent the grass seed being unequally scattered. My object in this experiment was to get in the clover early enough to have it stand the winter, and also to have the *first cutting* of hay a little more substantial than I had found it in the last experiment. The seed was sown just as the corn began to tassel out, and when the young plants made their appearance, which was in a few days, the corn had become a suitable and sufficient protection from the scorching heat of the sun. The shade soon became so close and thick in most parts of the field that the grass grew very slender and seemed to make little progress until about the first of September, when the corn blades began to curl and admit by degrees sun and air; after which it grew finely, and by the time the corn was harvested, had covered the ground almost entirely.

The corn was planted about three feet distant each way, and in some places grew so stout and thick that the pumpkin vines, of which there were a few, left running on the ground and went from hill to hill in the corn, yet the clover was not smothered, as is frequently the case among oats or other small grain that grows large enough to lodge.

In the spring of 1833, after the ground had become dry, it was rolled for the purpose of crushing the corn stubs and levelling for the scythe. The clover came out finely and with the herds-grass and red top made a large growth, of each nearly equal quantities. The first crop gave twenty two loads, estimated at three fourths of a ton each, or two tons to the acre, entirely free from old stubble and weeds, and worth at least twenty-five per cent more than hay of the first year's cutting usually is. I was offered for it the highest price at which the best hay was selling in the market. The second cutting or rowen, gave an average as estimated, of one ton to the acre.

I sold a few tons of the first crop at thirteen dollars, and of the second at ten dollars per ton. If our estimate of the quantity was correct, this would give thirty-six dollars per acre as the proceeds of one year's crop. The highest price at which the land has ever been sold is, I believe, thirty dollars per acre, and before I commenced these experiments it was reputed so poor that I could find no one willing to cultivate it on shares, with the privilege of managing it his own way.

This crop was made to supersede the oat crop, with which grass seed is usually sown, and the advantages of it must be evident to any farmer without much argument. It is perhaps sufficient to say that an oat crop in addition to its exhausting the land, (which in the opinion of many farmers is no trifle) would cost quite as much as the grass crops, and setting aside its liability to blight, would not be worth half as much.

There were sundry knolls, head-lands and patches on the piece, which had seldom or never been ploughed, but had been left to run up to weeds and brush. These places had been the resort and abode of squirrels and woodchucks in numbers sufficient to contend successfully with the former occupant for at least one half of the corn, beans, and clover that grew near them. When the rest of the piece was ploughed, these by the aid of a strong knife or coulter were ploughed also, and gave excellent crops of both corn and grass without any different management than was bestowed on the rest of the field, roots and stubs to the contrary notwithstanding.

PAGINATION INCORRECT

It is a mistaken notion, I believe which is generally held, that land in a condition similar to these spots must be ploughed and cross ploughed and dragged and hoed, year after year, for several years until its strength is in fact exhausted, before it is sufficiently subdued to become productive. As well may the farmer, by hardship and abuse, break his young horse and call it *subduing!* In either case I apprehend the most effectual method is taken to defeat the object in view, which is future benefit; and one might almost as soon think of deriving profit from the labors of a broken winded, broken down horse, as from the cultivation of a field that has been through the usual exhausting process of subduing, except where manure is applied at the same time.

I regret the necessity I am under of resorting to estimates when stating an experiment; it is too indefinite, but perhaps will do better in a grass crop than most others; for all farmers know without *guessing*, that grass of the above mixture does not lodge or fall down for weeks before cutting, as was the case with a considerable part of both crops, unless it be stout.

The last experiment was first suggested to my mind and I was led to try it with a good degree of confidence, by observing a few fine large plants of clover in the fall of the previous year, in my corn field, a sward that had not been ploughed before for twenty years, where a little clover chaff had accidentally been scattered about the time the corn was planted. It was from the fine appearance of these plants among corn that had received the usual harrowing and hoeing, that I was induced to extend the experiment to another piece of four acres, which was a light sandy soil, but gave a result equally satisfactory and favorable.

The test of another fall and winter on a like quantity of ground, of different soils, sown the same way as that of 1832, tends to confirm me in the opinion, that grass seed sown among corn "catches in" better, stands the winter as well, and is much less likely to be destroyed by mice than that sown in the usual way among English grain.

Grass is, and probably ever will be, one of the most valuable products of our New England soil. A crop on which, as much and perhaps more than any other, we are to depend for our wealth. Without it, our valleys would become comparatively poor, and our hills of little or no value. Improvement in its production is desirable and undoubtedly attainable. To make "two blades of grass grow where but one grew before," may appear to others a small business, but 'tis truly an object worthy of the attention of every farmer.

Yours respectfully, WILLIAM CLARK, JR.

Northampton, April 1834.

For the New England Farmer.

CAPITAL REQUISITE IN FARMING.

MR. EDITOR, Among the many causes assigned for ill success in agricultural pursuits, of which farmers are often reminded, there is one but rarely adverted to, and I suspect by many farmers has never been considered at all. And that is the absolute necessity of a loose capital to enable a farmer to cultivate his farm to any advantage. The amount of this capital should be nearly equal to the entire annual product of his farm, after deducting his annual gain, if there be any.

Suppose the entire annual product of a farm to be - - - - - $1000

Deduct supposed annual profit, - $150

Deduct also such portion of the milk, butter, grain, potatoes and sauce generally, as is used in the family during the same season of their production, 80——230

Leaving to be expended in living and working farm before receiving returns of produce of farm, - - $770

Now if the farmer himself is both able and willing to perform the labor of one good hired hand, it will be equal to about 200 dollars of this sum, leaving 570 dollars the least amount of loose capital that will suffice to carry him through the year, without being pinched or obliged to slight his work. The amount of wool, flax and provisions, reserved for the consumption of the family from year to year, is included in this sum.

As this is a subject of importance, and as I wish to be clearly understood, I will proceed a little further. Farmers who live so far from market as to find it impossible, or inconvenient to get the produce of their farms to market before winter (and these constitute a very large majority), it will be seen at once, must incur the entire expense of working their farms and providing for their families for the year, before they realize any thing worth naming from the produce of their farms. Their hired hands must be paid in autumn, if not sooner, and if they expect to get store goods and mechanics' work at a reasonable rate, they must pay as they go along. A farmer sells his pork, butter, cheese, grain, &c. from January to April. The cost of producing all these, was paid, (or ought to have been,) the summer and autumn before. His sheep are sheared in May, and should he be able to convert their fleeces immediately into money, (which he cannot always do,) still the whole expense of producing this wool, excepting about two months spring pasturing, was paid the year before, a considerable portion of it the August before.

It cannot be denied that a farmer can get along after a fashion, with little or no capital, because it is done by thousands every year. Some may inquire how this can be possible if the foregoing statement be correct. A farmer without capital, in the first place, will not perhaps hire more than half as much labor as his farm requires; of course all his work is slighted, and all done out of season, and half crops is the consequence. When the time arrives for paying his laborers, perhaps he will get some things out of the store for them on trust, or borrow a little money to pay them in part, and put off paying the remainder until winter or spring, to the no small injury of his credit, otherwise he must force the sale of some of his scanty produce at a reduced price, to make out the pay. In the next place he buys of the store-keeper wholly on a long credit, and pays a price accordingly, say twenty to thirty per cent. more than the cash price. His dealings with the blacksmith, shoemaker, and mechanics in general, are after the same fashion. And thus he passes his life continually pinched for the want of a little money, incessantly harassed by duns, and once in a while is appalled by a tap upon the shoulder, though gentle it may be, of the practised hand of a constable. And for this he must pay the latter and his co-worker the lawyer, a sum of money for which he has never received any equivalent. And thus he brings the year about—no, properly speaking, he never brings the year about. He is forever toiling to bring up the arrearages of the last year. Time has got the start of him by one year, and he in vain attempts to overtake it.

It is a common remark that small farms are more profitable than large ones; this in the abstract is not true. Though it is doubtless true that multitudes of farmers greatly injure themselves by enlarging their farms *without an adequate increase of capital.* How often do we see farmers who have in the course of years accumulated a little money from small farms, barely enough to enable them to cultivate their present farms to the best advantage, invest the whole of this very capital in more land. Thus making an increase of capital necessary by the very act which deprives them of the little they already possessed. Could farmers who are without a loose capital be persuaded to pursue a precisely contrary course to this, to wit, sell off so much of the land they already possess as will raise a sufficient loose capital to enable them to cultivate the remainder in a proper manner, it would increase both their profits and comfort.

If any thing will excuse a farmer for mortgaging his farm, it is the hiring of money to work that farm. Though he ought in this case to be very certain that he is possessed of so much resolution and discretion, as to be in no danger of ever appropriating money so raised to any other use; so long as it is applied to this use only it is not so very hazardous a plan. Before a mortgage can press heavily upon his farm, the money can be repaid, and at the worst he has only to return to his former method of farming by the halves and without either satisfaction or profit. I do not wish to be understood as recommending to farmers the practice of raising money on mortgage. It is better with rare exceptions, where money must be raised, to sell off a portion of the farm, and preserve the remainder free from incumbrance. H. W.

From the Amaranth.

A FRAGMENT.

WHO that has passed a summer in New England cannot in the beautiful language of Montgomery say, 'That a thunder storm is the eloquence of heaven.' While listening to the distant, muttering thunder, who has not felt the soul inspired?—Has not felt as though the music of the spheres struck his ear? It might have been termed music, as well as the 'eloquence' of heaven. Yes, there is music in the far off rumbling thunder, which far excels that of mortals. But as it approaches nearer and nearer, and grows louder and louder, when lightnings flash, and hail and rain tempestuous fall, then how different the feelings they may cherish! Instead of being charmed at its music, fear takes possession of their hearts when they behold—

"Struggling nature gasp for breath,
In the agony of death!"

Recollection is busy in calling to mind the soil they have seen ploughed up by the lightning's blast, the scathed trees of the forest, and steeples levelled to the dust. What a contrast! A moment since, their souls were enraptured at the sound; now every appeal adds increased terror. The rosy cheek of maiden beauty is turned to ashy paleness; the man of daring hardihood acts the part of a child; while the little prattler, burying his head in his mother's lap, now and anon lisps, "Mother, will it hurt me?"

"Now louder, deeper, thunders crash
And desolation threatens all."

The oak which has withstood the winds and blasts of many years is torn from its bed, and its towering branches prostrated. "Startled nature reels!" From solid darkness leaps the vivid flash, and dreadful rolls the echo through the sky!

No wonder man should fear, when the fierce elements thus rush forth at war! The rude laugh ceases; the laborers are still; the birds are mute in their leafy bowers; Jehovah speaks! Let man be silent! But lo, again fear subsides, gladness awakes, the sky is hushed and the bow of sunshine smiles and cheers each trembling soul.

INTERESTING PHILOSOPHICAL FACTS.

The change of property which takes place when chemical attraction acts, is not confined to metals, but is a general result in every case when different bodies are brought into this state of combination or chemical union. Frequently we find, that the properties of each body are totally changed; and substances from being energetic and violent in their nature, become inert, harmless, and *vice versa*. For instance, that useful and agreeable substance, culinary salt, which is not only harmless but wholesome, and absolutely necessary for the well being of man, is composed of two formidable ingredients, either of which taken into the stomach, proves fatal to life; one of these is a metal, and the other an air; the former is called *sodium*, and the latter *chlorine*. When presented to each other, the violence of their nature is manifested by their immediate bursting out into flame, and instantly they are both deprived of their virulence. Can any thing be more striking than the change of properties in this case; and who could have supposed that the culinary salt is composed of a metal united to an air.

The medicine called Glauber's salts is another instance; it is composed of caustic poisons of different kinds; one called oil of vitriol and the other barilla or soda. There are also two substances known to chemists which are disgustingly bitter liquids; one is called nitrate of silver, and the other hydrosulphate of soda; when mixed they are found a compound of considerable sweetness. But the atmosphere which we breathe is the most extraordinary of all instances, to those who are acquainted with the fact, that atmospheric air indispensable as it is to life, is composed of the same ingredients as that most violent and destructive liquid called *aqua fortis*, or nitric acid. This powerful acid by being made to act upon sugar, the sweetest of all things, produces a substance intensely bitter to the taste. Charcoal is, of all known substances, the most difficult to convert into vapor, so much so indeed, that the conversion has never been yet decidedly effected, it is also a very solid substance; and a diamond which is nothing but chrystalized charcoal, is one of the hardest bodies in nature. Sulphur, in the solid state, is also a hard substance, and to hold it in vapor requires a high temperature. But when these two substances, carbon and sulphur, are made to combine chemically, so as to form the substance called bisulphuret of carbon, their properties are strikingly changed. Instead of the compound being hard, it is a thin liquid, and is not known to freeze or solidify at any degree of cold that can be produced. Instead of the compound being difficult to evaporize, it is of all liquids one of the most evaporable. Charcoal is the blackest substance with which we are acquainted, sulphur is of the most lively yellow hue; but the compound is as colorless as water. A new smell and taste are acquired, and in a word there is not one point of resemblance with the component. These facts are strikingly illustrative of the change of properties which follows on the exertion of chemical attraction between the ultimate particles of bodies.—*Donagon's Chemistry.*

From the New York Farmer.

SUGGESTIONS RELATIVE TO FARMERS' WORK FOR APRIL.

Ploughing. Various opinions are given in respect to the depth of ploughing. As a general rule we believe the most successful farmers plough no deeper than the soil or rather the turf extends. This soil is not generally more than two to four inches; consequently if the plough runs five or six inches deep, the soil or fertilizing portion of the furrow must become so very much diffused that the plants particularly when young will not find sufficient nourishment. This being the case, it would seem that the direction so generally given to plough a sandy loam deep, should also depend on the depth of the manured portion of the soil. The best farmers of the present day direct the utmost pains to be taken to turn the sod so completely that it will all ferment. This is done most effectually by one ploughing only, and some to keep the sod from being in the least turned up by hoeing and ploughing the corn, pass a roller over and then harrow the field before planting.

Oxen. It is very common, with even good farmers, to keep their working oxen in very thin flesh. This is bad policy; they cannot perform as much nor as heavy work; are not so capable of being substitutes for horses, nor will they last as many years; are fattened for the butcher at greater expense, and in longer time. The extra expense in keeping working oxen in good condition does not probably exceed in a whole season the additional work they could thereby do in one month. And when we consider that they consume less food in fattening, and can be moderately worked all the time they are preparing for the butcher, it will be seen that there is economy in keeping a good portion of flesh always on them. Many people are under the impression that oxen in flesh cannot move as fast, nor undergo as much fatigue, as they can when they are not much more than skin and bones. This is true with oxen that are well fed and unaccustomed to labor; but not otherwise as many farmers can testify, and as correct reasoning would conclude.

Corn. In communications from farmers we find that some varieties of corn will yield five pecks of shelled, from two bushels of ears, and others but little, if any, more than four pecks. This seems to depend very much on the smallness of the cob. In planting corn, it is recommended to put six to eight kernels in a hill, and then to pull up at the first hoeing all but four of the most healthy spears.

To prevent birds and fowls from scratching up the corn, the seed is covered with tar and wood ashes; and various other methods are adopted, but none that we are acquainted with have any decided advantages.

Skinless Oats. This kind of oats begins to be considerably cultivated. As yet the seed commands a pretty high price, yet it is advisable, for every farmer who can, to procure at least a few quarts.

Flesh-colored Clover. It would be well for farmers to furnish themselves with a few pounds or even ounces of this seed in order to test its merits. It may be of great benefit.

TEMPERANCE.

No man ever began to drink, for the purpose of becoming a drunkard; no man ever meant to be a drunkard. How is it then that so many are drunkards? Ardent spirit was to them what a bait in the snare is to an unwary bird. They knew not the danger they were in, when they began to be cautious drinkers. Cautious drinking is an endeavor to pull the bait out of the trap without getting caught. Let it alone. No man is safe who drinks cautiously. If you get into the habit at all, it is like the rash or ignorant mariner entering the disk of the Maelstrom, that great whirlpool on the coast of Norway. He cannot keep upon the edge. Each circumstance carries him nearer to the centre, and of course to irretrievable destruction. His only safety lies in keeping out of the current, and at a distance from it.—Some people drink to drown sorrow. Unwise! they drown themselves. They are about as reasonable as the mad commander of a vessel, who, because he had troubles on his voyage, ran his vessel into the whirlpool, that the dizziness produced by the rapidity with which he made the circumference, might cause him to forget his troubles.—*Trumpet.*

A NEW METAL.

In the month of August last, Professor Brieth-haupt, in Freiburg, determined a new substance, possessing very remarkable properties—solid or native iridium. Platinum has long been considered the heaviest of all metals; but Professor B. shows that native iridium is two parts heavier, viz. 23 3 to 23 6; platina being only 21 5. In the 17th and 18th Nos. of the "Annals of Chemistry and Physics," there is an article, from which we extract the following particulars relative to this discovery. Professor Briethaupt found the substance which he has determined in grains from the gold and platina works of Nischno-Tagilsk, on the Oural, which were brought to him by some young Russians who are studying at Freiburg. This substance has a shiney and perfectly metallic lustre. Externally the color is silver-white, strongly inclining to yellow; internally it is silver-bluish, inclining to platina grey—"its hardness," says Mr. B. "is from eight to nine of my scales, and therefore it immediately polishes the best files. This substance is consequently the hardest, in all probability, of all metals and metallic compounds." This metal is therefore a new species. According to the examination hitherto made by Professor B. it consists of iridium with a very little osmium. It combines with their hardness and specific gravity, in which it exceeds all metals hitherto known, two other remarkable properties. It actively resists the action of acids, and is in a high, perhaps the highest degree infusible.—*Lit. Gazette.*

AWAKENING SUDDENLY.

To awaken children from their sleep with a loud noise or in an impetuous manner, is extremely injudicious and hurtful; nor is it proper to carry them from a dark room immediately into a glaring light, against a dazzling wall; for the sudden impression of light debilitates the organs of vision, and lays the foundation of weak eyes from early infancy.

From the Genesee Farmer.

PUMPKINS.

I AM not much of a farmer, my own time having been occupied for many years in other business, so that I have not had those opportunities for making experiments in agriculture that are calculated to advance the interests of said science. It was nevertheless my good fortune some eight or ten years ago, to procure some seeds of the pumpkin, the culture of which has proved so peculiarly advantageous, that I am anxious to call the attention of farmers to the subject. No doubt these remarks may excite a sneer from many of your sagacious readers, who will lay by the paper in contempt, and say "who does not know all about a pumpkin?" The man from whom I procured the seed possessed rather a facetious turn, so that in his recommendation of his pumpkin seed I at first apprehended that he was indulging in that merry propensity, as he remarked that they would grow in so long a shape that a man might carry one on his shoulders with the same facility that he could a stick of wood or a rail. When my pumpkins came to maturity, I found there was too much truth in his remark to be all a joke. They will sometimes grow to the length of from 20 to 30 inches, and perhaps a foot in diameter. Their peculiar advantage over the common round pumpkin, consists not in their shape. The substance of them is thicker, of a finer texture, and very evidently sweeter than the other kind. The space containing the seeds is small in proportion to the size of the fruit, and consequently they are proportionably heavier. Some of them have weighed over sixty pounds. I have not failed a single year of raising a luxuriant crop; and a neighboring farmer who procured some of the seed from me and used it two seasons assured me that it has proved a nett gain of more than $20. It is a true maxim, that "what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." So, although the subject of my communication is a pumpkin, if it is worth raising it is certainly best, if there be any choice in the seed, to select the best and cultivate it in the best manner. In cultivating the pumpkin, I have usually followed the example that has been set me by neighboring farmers, and planted the seed along with that of my corn. Two years ago a circumstance occurred that has caused me to doubt if that is the most economical method. A pumpkin plant came up by accident near the door of my dwelling, and was discovered by a little boy, and mistaken by him for a plant of a watermelon, and by him transplanted among the tender vines in the garden. It so happened that the bugs or some other blight destroyed the other vines near it, so it had ample room to develope itself in all directions; the consequence of which was, a crop from this one plant that weighed 215 pounds. Now it must so be, that the luxuriant crop of vines that is produced among the hills of corn, must diminish in some degree the crop of corn. So the question would arise whether it would not be the most consistent and profitable mode to plant them in fields separate from other crops? Perhaps some of your numerous readers have tried the experiment.

C. B.

Phelps, April 18th, 1834.

INSECTS.

THOSE who are desirous of keeping their fruit trees free from insects, should wash them with soap suds before the insects have passed the winter, and before the eggs which were deposited under the loose bark, and beneath limbs, &c. have hatched. By early washing trees, and vines, with strong soap suds, or with lime water, not only are innumerable eggs and insects destroyed, but the young plants and seeds of many varieties of mosses which infest or injure trees and vines are destroyed also. Trees that are annually washed, have a more healthy appearance than those that are not, when growing side by side.—*Bangor Courier.*

SILK

—WE are impressed with the belief will, at some remote day become the staple commodity of Northampton. We are glad to see some efficient individuals in this town setting an example worthy of imitation. Immense quantities of Mulberry trees have been transplanted this spring, and experiments with the silk worm are now to be tried on a large scale. Those individuals who have entered into it extensively have found it immeasurably the most lucrative employment they could follow. It yields a certain gain, and gives occupation to the young of both sexes, four fold more profitable than the mere pittance they get from their employments at the present time. It is worthy the attention of all our farmers and at least will repay them the trouble of an investigation. The fluctuation of the principles of government or change of rulers will not enhance or diminish its value, and it might save the population of New England from emigration and death, with fever and ague in the western country. Will not our people, who now complain of hard times, awake to new sources of industry, and do something which *can* be done to increase their pecuniary gains.—*Northampton Courier.*

From the Genesee Farmer.

ASPARAGUS.

ASPARAGUS "in its native state is so dwarfish in appearance even when in flower, that none but a botanist would consider it as the same species with our cultivated plant." From this we may discover the great benefits of high culture. Some gardeners recommend the beds to be dug one foot deep; but the Edinburgh Encyclopædist, from whom we have made the above extract, says "the soil should *not be less than two feet and a half deep.*" he adds, "it can scarcely be too well dunged."

The soil, (or subsoil) should undoubtedly be loose; and the Encyclopædist recommends a rich sandy loam. The finest Asparagus that we have ever seen however, grew in gravelly ground cultivated by the late Comfort Tyler at Montezuma. It is highly probable that the soil is impregnated with *salt*. The use of this mineral as a manure for this plant is well known to many gardeners; and we are satisfied of its value from our own experience. We think neither cows nor sheep require this stimulant more than Asparagus. *Deane* says "To a bed fifty feet by six, *a bushel of salt* may be safely applied before the plants start in the spring." We often apply it long after they have started.

The same Encyclopædist says "Damp ground or wet subsoil is not fit for Asparagus. Indeed the French consider wetness so prejudicial to this plant, they *raise their Asparagus beds about one foot above the alleys* in order to throw off the rain.

Gray, an English botanist, says, "The plants are mostly diœcious;" and *Weston* in "the Repertory of Arts," observes that the males yield a greater number of shoots than the females. He advises in planting out beds to select the former and to prevent mistakes says they should not be taken from the seed bed till they have flowered.

Asparagus "is found on the sea shores in many parts of Europe; and is abundant in the inland *sandy* plains in Russia, Turkey and Greece. It was in much esteem both among the Greeks and Romans. It was much praised by Cato and Columella; and Pliny mentions a sort which grew near Ravenna, a *deep sandy country*, three shoots of which would weigh a pound." Loudon's Encyc. Plants.

Many gardens in the Genesee country have been laid out on heavy loam; and for Asparagus beds we would advise the proprietors to prepare an *artificial soil*. We have lately seen a bed for this purpose which is *two feet and a half deep.*

From the Genesee Farmer.

FUEL.

As many farmers are in the practice of using unseasoned wood for fuel, perhaps an estimate of the actual loss sustained by it, may serve to show the importance of an attention to this subject.

It appears from direct experiment made for the purpose, that several of the harder and more common kinds of wood, when subjected in a green state to a temperature of 90 or 100 degrees Farenheit, lose rather more than one-third of their original weight by the evaporation of moisture; but when dried at a low temperature it amounts to a little less; so that the average may be fairly estimated at one-third of the whole weight. It has also been determined that the weight of such wood when green, if compared with that of water, is on an average about as nine is to ten. Admitting that the interstices in a cord are equal to two-fifths of its whole bulk, it follows that there are seventy seven solid feet of wood, equal in weight to sixty-nine cubic feet of water; and as one cubic foot of water weighs sixty-two and a half pounds, the weight of a cord will amount to four thousand three hundred and thirty-one pounds. A cord must consequently contain one thousand four hundred and forty three pounds of water, or one hundred and seventy four gallons nearly. This includes only such as is capable of evaporation at the mean temperature of the atmosphere. Now it is a well established fact, that the heat requisite for the evaporation of a given quantity of water, is four and a half times the amount required for heating the same quantity from the freezing to the boiling point. The heat therefore requisite for expelling this moisture, even after it has become heated to boiling is equal to what would be required for heating six thousand four hundred and ninety-three pounds, or nearly twelve and a half hogsheads from freezing to boiling; and as it passes off in a latent state, the whole of it is totally lost.

It will also be perceived that the difference between green and dried wood amounts to the weight of one cord in three. This estimate will therefore suggest when it becomes necessary to convey wood to a distance, the advantages of causing it to be previously well dried.

When wood becomes partially decayed, its capacity for moisture is increased, at the same time that its power of generating heat is diminished; and the consequent loss of using such as fuel, unless thoroughly dried, is increased to a far greater amount.

J. J. THOMAS.

Cayuga county, 2 mo. 1833.

MANURE.

On the relative advantages of applying manure to the soil in a fermented or unfermented state, a contrariety of opinions continues to exist among farmers. The following extract from the "Reports of Select Farms," contains much good sense, and will pay for a careful perusal. It forms part of the report from Kyle in Ayrshire:

"*Manure.*—Of this the only source here is the farm-yard, and considering its value and how much its value depends on its treatment, it does not yet receive all the attention it deserves. On a farm of this extent, on which there has never been in one year above three acres of turnips and four of potatoes, it is perhaps a good deal to have manured eighteen acres in a season, from the farm-yard and the servants' cottages, and yet there is no doubt a great deal more might have been accomplished, as respects both quantity and quality. If exposed to rain, the most soluble and richest parts are carried off. Observe the luxuriant vegetation wherever the dark liquor from the dunghill touches, and the loss may be estimated. If allowed to come into a strong heat, its substance may be seen passing into the air. The only part of it that requires rotting and fermentation to render it soluble and fit to become food for the roots of plants, is the woody fibre vegetables; the closer, however, and more confined the manner in which this process goes on, there will be the less loss. Some practical farmers have advocated the use of dung in its more recent state; others have said it should not be used till well rotted. But if in the process of rotting it probably undergoes waste, the place in which it must with most advantage be rotted, is under the soil of the field. There is then no loss that can be avoided. The fallacy in this controversy arises, it is suspected, from not adverting to the circumstance that equal bulks of recent and of rotted dung contain very different quantities of the food of plants. In the latter it is more concentrated, and in a state fitter to be immediately consumed by their roots. But the correct way of stating the question is this: having a given quantity of recent dung to apply to a given extent of land, is it not better to plough it down in its recent state, than previously to allow it to ferment and rot in heaps? In the first case there is no loss: the decomposition goes on as slowly as possible, and all the elements of the substances of which it is composed are retained in the soil as they are set free. In the second, the decomposition is rapid, and a much larger proportion of matter will be found to have flown off than could easily have been imagined. Any person, without the aid of knowledge of chemical principles, may satisfy himself on the point by an easy experiment. Take two acres of ground of equal quality; take twenty tons of recent dung, which apply to one of them; take twenty tons of the same dung and put it up in heaps till it becomes a black solid mass, and then apply it to the other acre; balance the produce of the one against the produce of the other, at the end of the fourth year, and if the experiment be well conducted the result ought to be satisfactory. A knowledge of chemical principles leads to the inference that dung ought to be used in its recent state, and any disappointment which in practice may have attended the adoption of this inference will be found to have arisen not from a defect in the theory but from a want of due observation of circumstances in its application. If immediate effect be absolutely requisite, as in raising turnips, then rotted dung must be used, but care should be taken in preparing it to prevent its heat from rising high or any of it from escaping, either in a liquid or in a gaseous state. This is best accomplished by compression and by covering well up with earth."

SOWING GRASS SEED.

This is a very important operation, with farmers, during the Spring months. Much difference of opinion prevails, with regard to this, as to time, quantity of seed and manner of sowing it.

As to the time for sowing most farmers prefer sowing grass seed, when the ground is covered with snow, during the month of March. The only advantage to be derived from the circumstance of the ground being covered with snow, is, that the person sowing the seed, can see his own tracks, by which he is saved the trouble of setting stakes. The quantity of seed per acre can only be regulated by circumstances, as it is generally allowed that light poor soils require more than strong rich soils. Most farmers sow their seed without mixing it with fine dry sand. We have lately read the description of a machine for sowing grass seed which we presume was a yankee invention. This machine consisted of a small pair of wheels and axle, six or eight feet long, more or less. The axle passed through the centre of a cylinder which was punched full of holes at regular distances. The grass seed to be sown was first to be mixed with dry sand and put in that cylinder, and the carriage drawn across the field backward and forward, by which the seed would be equally distributed over the whole surface. But in whatever manner grass seed is sown it is important that the ground should be rolled after it is sown, which will render the surface more compact, and prevent young plants from becoming dried by the sun and air; it also prepares the surface for any after operation. When the surface is smooth more hay can be cut, than where it is rough, and every farmer knows that an even surface is better for ploughing than a rough one.—*Goodsell's Farmer.*

From Goodsell's Genesee Farmer.

CLOVER AND WHEAT.

Among all the modern improvements in Agriculture, none are of greater importance, than the substitution of a rotation of crops, in place of manure. By a proper attention to this, land may not only be prevented from becoming poor, but may be increased in fertility. For this purpose there has not as yet, been any crop discovered so generally approved of in this section as clover, or at least none that is so well calculated to improve our lands and prepare them for the leading crop, wheat, which under proper management will in all probability continue to be the staple article of western New York.

Barn yard manure has always been considered valuable by every well informed agriculturist, and there are many crops to which it can be applied to advantage. The crops to which manure from the yard or compost heap, are applied to best advantage are of small consideration when compared to our crops of wheat. Manure might also be applied to those lands intended for wheat, but where farmers sow from fifty to two hundred acres, the small quantity collected in yards and compost heaps, would do but little towards preparing or keeping farms from becoming impoverished. Even allowing that a sufficient quantity of barn yard manure could be collected by every farmer for his wheat fields, it could not be applied at the same expense, with which fields are now renovated by means of clover, and a proper rotation of crops.

That a rotation of crops is absolutely necessary upon most lands, every experienced farmer will readily admit. It is a well established principle, that each plant requires a particular kind of food, and by continuing the same plant upon grounds for many years that particular food becomes exhausted, but by introducing a crop which requires a different kind of food, the former, or that exhausted by other crops is allowed to accumulate, the crops requiring the same food may in some instances be allowed to succeed each other, by introducing the one less valuable and allowing that to decompose upon the soil to furnish food to the more valuable one. This is the case when clover is used to prepare the ground for wheat.

By analysis it is found that both clover and wheat contain a small quantity of lime, and of course soils which do not contain this naturally, must be supplied with it artificially, before these crops may be grown to advantage. Lime requires also to be in different conditions, in order to be taken up by different plants. Experience has demonstrated that when the sulphate of lime, or plaster of Paris is applied to soils, that it increases the growth of clover, and that when clover grown upon the soil is mixed, either by ploughing in the whole crop, or by turning under clover stubble; that it prepares such soils for producing wheat in greater perfection than when manure is applied from the yard.

It has been by pursuing this course of tillage, or rotation of crops, that many lands in western New York, which by nature were thin, light soils, and which did not when first cultivated produce more than fifteen bushels of wheat per acre, have been made to produce from thirty to forty bushels.—How long the fertility of lands thus managed will continue to increase is unknown, but thus far our fields which have been cultivated the greatest length of time, where attention has been paid to rotation produce not only the greatest quantity but the best quality of wheat.

Where fields are clear from stumps and stones so that they can be ploughed deep and regular, and where proper attention has been paid to seeding with Timothy and Clover, many prefer turning clover either in crop or stubble under, and allowing it to remain, working the soil lightly with drags and rollers. In this way it is thought the greatest advantage by the preparatory crop is realized.

ANGLO-ITALIAN FIG TREE.

Among the time-worn ruins of the ancient castle of Reculver, in the island of Thanet, which forms part of the county of Kent, an ancient fig-tree stretches forth its venerable arms to the breeze, and attracts the attention of the visiter, not more by the venerable aspect it presents, than the historical records with which it is connected. This tree, according to the traditions of the neighborhood, claims Italy for the soil of its nativity, and Roman hands for its first planters; its age consequently cannot be less than from 1345 to 1888 years, the Romans having first landed at Deal in the summer of the 55th year before the birth of our Saviour, 1888 years ago; and having finally quitted Britain in the year of our Lord 448, or 1345 years ago.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1834.

We have given in this day's paper a valuable communication from William Clark, Jun. on the subjects of ploughing green sward, recruiting grass lands, &c. In this, the writer refers to a communication from Elias Phinney, Esq. on the same subjects, which he thinks "worthy of a yearly republication," &c. As we entirely coincide in opinion with Mr. Clark, respecting the value of Mr. Phinney's communication to which he alludes, we have concluded to give it at length, instead of our usual variety under the editorial head.

PLOUGHING GREENSWARD.

Mr. Editor—Your correspondent "*Dorchester*," in No. 1, vol. 8, of the N. E. Farmer, wishes for information on the subject of ploughing and managing sward land. The subject is certainly one of great importance to farmers. Considering the exhausted condition of most of our grounds, and the expense of restoring them by the application of manure, I am surprised that so little attention has been paid to this very essential part of husbandry, even by our most scientific and best practical agriculturists. By the usual method of turning up the sward, and then cross ploughing and harrowing, the sods are pushed about by the plough, and dragged by the harrow, and so exposed to the action of the sun and winds, that the nutritive matter contained in the roots and tops of the grasses is in a great measure wasted. By this practice, the vegetable matter which was before upon the surface, is brought there again, and the poorer part of the soil, which should remain at the top, whereby it would be greatly benefitted and enriched by the fertilizing properties of the atmosphere, is returned to its original position beneath. This is exactly the reverse of what it should be. Let the roots and tops of the grasses, together with all the vegetable matter on and near the surface, be buried and retained to ferment and decompose, and the poor earth be brought to and retained upon the surface, where, by culture and exposure to the atmosphere, it will soon become a body of rich mould.

If the result of my own experience will be of any use to your correspondent, or the public, I give it with pleasure. I ascertained by an accurate experiment, that on the first of May, a single foot of sward land, taken from a field that had been mown for a number of years, the soil a light loam with a gravelly bottom, and thinly set with red top and herds-grass, contained nine ounces of vegetable matter, consisting of the roots and tops of the grasses, giving at this rate over twelve and a quarter tons to the acre. I must confess I was not a little surprised on finding the quantity so much beyond what I had calculated, and it satisfied me of the necessity of adopting some plan by which this valuable treasure might be turned to good account. To make the most of this enormous quantity of vegetable matter, as well for the benefit of the immediate crops as for the eventual improvement of the soil, would seem to be an object worthy the consideration of farmers.

My first trial was upon a piece of worn out pasture land. In the month of August I turned over the sward as evenly as possible, then rolled with a heavy loaded roller. The ground was then harrowed in the same direction as the furrows, with a light horse harrow, and then sowed with buckwheat, with red top and herds-grass seed. The bush harrow was then drawn over it, and then rolled again. The harrowing was so light, that the sod was not disturbed. No manure was used. I had a fair crop of buckwheat. The grass seed took well, and looked so promising in the spring following, I concluded to mow it. The crop of hay greatly exceeded my expectations, and, as pasture, it has been less affected by drought, and yielded double the quantity of feed for my cattle that it gave before ploughing.

The success of this experiment induced me to try another. On the first of May, 1828, I had two acres of sward land, which had been considerably exhausted by long cropping, yielding less than a ton of red top and herds-grass to the acre, turned over; having a hand occasionally to follow the plough with a hoe, for the purpose of turning over such parts as the plough had missed. The ploughing was from four to six inches deep, varying according to the depth of the soil, taking care always to go deep enough to bring to the surface a portion of the gravelly and poorer part of the soil. After ploughing, the outside furrow, which was turned out, was taken into the cart, in convenient pieces, and placed in the vacant space which was left in the middle of the lot, whereby this space was just filled, and no ridges left on the outside; the field was then rolled with a heavy roller, and the uneven parts of the sward settled down, and the whole made smooth. It was then harrowed lengthwise the furrows thoroughly with a horse harrow, but so light as not to disturb the sod. Twenty cart loads of compost, made of loam, peat, mud, and stable dung, (a sufficient quantity of the latter having been mixed to cause the whole mass to ferment,) were then spread upon the acre. It was again harrowed as before, and, from the evenness of the surface, the field had more the appearance of having been tilled for a number of years. On the sixth of May corn was planted upon the furrows in drills parallel with them, three feet apart, and the corn six inches distant in the rows, having previously marked out the rows, three at a time, with an instrument made for the purpose, by which the work was performed by one hand in less than an hour. The ploughing between the rows and the hoeing was done without disturbing the sod; and the not only useless, but injurious practice of ridging, or hilling the corn was carefully avoided.

The corn at first did not exhibit a very promising appearance, but as soon as the roots had extended into the enriching matter below, and began to expand in the sward, which had now become open and mellow by fermentation, and the parts of soil more minutely divided than it could have been by the plough or hoe, it assumed a healthy appearance, and grew more vigorously than corn which I had planted upon a much better soil, cultivated in the usual way. When the ears were filling out, a time when the corn most requires support, the roots easily penetrated the mellow soil, and an abundance of nourishment was afforded by the decomposing of the vegetable matter. The crop was harvested about the middle of September. I did not measure the produce for the purpose of ascertaining exactly the quantity which was gathered, but some of my neighbors who are good judges saw the field before harvesting, and estimated it at from 70 to 80 bushels to the acre. My usual crop on sward land cultivated in the common way, has been from 35 to 45 bushels to the acre. As soon as the corn was harvested the stubble was loosened up by running a light horse plough lengthwise through the rows, and then the whole smoothed down by a bush harrow drawn crosswise. All this was done without disturbing the sward. A bushel of winter rye to the acre, and a sufficient quantity of gaass seed was then sowed, and the ground harrowed with a light harrow and rolled. Rye has in my neighborhood, for some years past, been a very uncertain crop,—being almost invariably subject to a blast, or mildew, which attacks it while in the milk. It has however, as is the case every where, I believe with rye, succeeded better upon a new than an old soil. This circumstance induced me to believe that the new and fresh earth, which had been turned up and kept upon the top of my sward land might favor its growth, as well as prevent the mildew. I was not disappointed; the two acres gave me between four and five tons of straw, and 69 1-2 bushels of excellent grain. I had never before gathered more than 15 bushels to the acre. The grass seed sowed with the rye took well, and the appearance at present is favorable for a great burden of grass the next season. I have then with one ploughing only taken two crops from this ground and stocked it down to grass. That there has been a saving of labor will not be doubted, and that there has been an increased produce from this mode of managing greensward, the foregoing facts sufficiently demonstrated, and that the soil is substantially improved I have no doubt.

I have this season, ploughed and planted another field in the same manner as that above described, and it promises a good crop. This I intend to sow upon the furrow with grass seed alone as soon as the corn is harvested.

In answer to some of the queries of "Dorchester," I will state my opinion that the depth of the ploughing should be regulated by the quality of the soil, and the quantity of manure to be applied. The soil should be gradually deepened, by turning up at each successive ploughing, some of the poorer earth, that was not disturbed by the previous ploughing, until a sufficient depth of soil is attained. If a liberal dressing of manure can be afforded, the more poor earth may be brought on the surface to mix with it.

If it be intended to sow or plant sward land in the spring, the ploughing should be at as short an interval before putting in the seed as possible. —The greater the growth of the roots and tops of grasses at the time of ploughing, the more perfect will be the fermentation, and the sward by its increased toughness will be less broken by the plough and harrow. The roller loaded as heavily as may be conveniently drawn by one yoke of oxen should follow the plough as soon as may be convenient; this will smooth any unevenness of surface. Set the furrow slices close together, and thereby prevent their being torn up by the harrow, and also prevent the escape of the gases that are thrown out by fermentation. Every farmer, who has three acres of ground to till, should have a roller. One made in two parts is much preferable to that made in the usual way. After rolling, harrow with a light harrow—the more the better, provided the sod be not disturbed. The compost should then be spread on and the ground again harrowed, when it will be ready to receive the seed, either corn or potatoes, or the small grains with or without grass seed, or grass seed alone.

The strength of team should be according to the toughness of the sward, and the depth of ploughing. One good yoke of oxen and a horse, a hand to hold the plough, and another to drive, were all that I found requisite to perform my work.

HOWARD'S Plough, with a wrought iron share and cast iron mould, I have found to be the best for turning over greensward. It is the only kind of plough that I have seen, which turns the furrow flat, without breaking it; and this circumstance is owing to the turn of the mould, and its having a share wide enough to cut just as wide a slice as the mould would completely turn over.

As to the number of lands, I would make as few as possible, as the more furrow lands a lot is divided into, the more vacant barren spaces will be left, and the more labor required to fill them. Go round the whole lot, and when finished, let the outside furrow slice be taken up, in pieces that may be conveniently handled, put into a cart or drag, and placed in the vacant space (occasioned by turning the furrows outward) in the middle and corners of the lot. This will leave the whole smooth and level, prevent ridges at the sides and ends, and save the necessity of back furrows, which would give an unevenness of surface.

GOOD NEWS AND GOOD FRUIT.

WE have recently been greatly and doubly gratified by learning that our friend GORHAM PARSONS, Esq. who has been dangerously ill, is now convalescent; and to receive together with this pleasing intelligence some fine samples of fruit raised and preserved by Mr. PARSONS. The health and welfare of a gentleman, who to other good traits of character, unites zeal, intelligence and public spirit as a Cultivator, are matters which concern the public much more than the articles which usually fill the columns of newspapers.

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

BALTIMORE, April 28. *Change of Weather.* After a succession of warm and pleasant weather, with occasional showers, there was a sudden change and severe frost on Friday night, which withered grapes, fruits and vegetables, in exposed situations; and after a cold and unpleasant day on Saturday, the night set in with high wind and rain, which was succeeded by a slight fall of snow. Great injury has, no doubt been sustained by the frost, as on yesterday morning there was considerable ice. We understand that in the vicinity of Baltimore, some of the gardeners have lost nearly all their early vegetables.

The amount of revenue that accrued to the Government of BUENOS AYRES during the year 1833 amounted to 12,240,000 dollars, of which the customs furnished 9,060,366 dollars.

PIE PLANT; or, Rheum Raphonticum.

This valuable vegetable is a perfectly palatable acid, and answers most of the purposes that apples or other fruit do to cook, preserve, or dry for winter use. The stems of the full grown leaves of this plant are at all times fit for use; they require no other preparation than washing and cutting into short pieces, and are then fit to make pies, tarts, dry, or preserve, the same as apples. The leaves are frequently from two to three feet wide, and four feet long. To have this plant produce in perfection, sow the seeds on a rich spot of ground; water them frequently in dry weather, while the plants are young; in the fall or spring following, prepare a spot of ground eighteen inches deep, and very rich with rotten manure, on this, set out the plants four feet apart each way. One plant well cultivated at three or four years old, will produce in one season, from thirty to forty weight or upwards, fit for use.

A few papers of the seed of this plant received and for sale at the New England Seed Store. GEO. C. BARRETT.

BOX PLANTS.

From Seven Hundred to One Thousand Yards of Prime BOX in good order for Planting. To be taken up at any time when ordered. Orders may be left with GEO. C. BARRETT, New England Farmer Office, or apply to THOMAS MASON, Charlestown Vineyard. It may be had on fair terms by the Yard or Hundred. m 7

MANURE FOR SALE.

At the Boston Lime Kiln, near the Mill Dam, is from 30 to 40 cart-loads of Refuse Lime and Ashes, making a rich Manure for Potatoes, Indian corn, &c. which will be sold at the very low price of $1 per load. Also, a small quantity of air slacked Lime. 2t p

GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS.

An excellent collection of GARDEN and FLOWER Seeds of very best quality, in papers of 6¼ cents each, constantly on hand and for sale at New England Seed Store of GEO. C. BARRETT.

THE IMPORTED HORSE PHŒNIX.

The imported thorough bred English entire Horse Phœnix six years old last June, is offered for sale. He was sired by Antonio, dam by Comus. He has proved a sure foal getter, and his colts are very promising—and is believed to be as fine a horse as ever was offered in this market for Sale, and well worth the attention of those who feel interested in the improvement of the breed of horses. This Horse may be seen at Mr. Gilson's Stable, Hawley Street, where further particulars will be given. 2awis ap 30

SEEDS.

Just received direct from Holland, a large assortment of CABBAGE SEEDS, in small and large quantities. These are from a House upon which the utmost reliance can be placed, and the quality of Dutch Seed is found superior.
a 30 GEO. C. BARRETT.

C. G. GREENE'S

IMPROVED SILK REEL—PRICE $20—For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, No. 52 North Market Street, and by the Patentees, Windsor, Vermont. ap 23

WHITE DUTCH CLOVER.

RECEIVED this week direct from Holland 1000 lbs. superior White CLOVER, warranted free from any kind of foul seed, and at least worth one third more than American. This will be found an excellent Grass for Pasture land, &c.
a16 GEO. C. BARRETT, New England Seed Store.

MANGEL WURTZEL SEED.

300 lbs. Mangel Wurtzel Seed, raised from selected roots and *not imported*. This article cannot be too highly recommended for Stock, yielding 40 tons to the acre, and being a most profitable crop. Sow 2½ lbs. to the acre. For sale at New England Seed Store. GEO. C. BARRETT.

GRAPE VINES, DAHLIAS, &c.

For Sale by HOVEY & CO, No 79 and 81 Cornhill, (late Market street,) Isabella, Catawba, Pond's Seedling, (a superior, new, native variety,) and choice foreign kinds of Grape vines, by the single one or hundred, well packed for transportation to any part of the country.

A fine assortment of English Gooseberry bushes, of the best kinds, including those that obtained the premium of the Mass. Hort. Society. —ALSO—

—A collection of the best double Dahlias, Bulbous Flower Roots, Greenhouse Plants, Hardy Perennial Flowering Shrubs, Honeysuckles, &c. &c. a 9

PRIZE DAHLIAS.

FOR SALE, 200 varieties of the best double Dahlias. This collection of Dahlias obtained the premium awarded by the Mass. Hort. Society the two last years.

Orders left with Messrs. HOVEY & CO. No. 79 & 81 Cornhill, Boston, or C. F. PUTNAM, Salem, will be duly attended to. apr 2

GRAPE VINES AND EARLY POTATOES.

Catawba and Isabella Grape Vines, extra large size, by the hundred or single.

Early Potatoes which obtained the premium for the last five years. For sale by SAMUEL POND.
Cambridgeport, Feb. 26.

APPLE TREES FOR SALE.

3600 budded Apple Trees, consisting of Baldwins, Russetts, Siberian Crab, Porter, River, Rhode Island Greenings, and Blue Pearmains. The above are very thrifty Trees, and in fine order for transplanting, being four years from the bud. Inquire of JONAS WYETH, Fresh Pond Hotel, Cambridge.
March 13, 1834. 8t

GOOSEBERRY BUSHES.

25 Varieties fine imported Gooseberry bushes, just received from Scotland. GEO. C. BARRETT. m 26.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE

		FROM	TO
APPLES, russets,	barrel	1 75	2 00
BEANS, white,	bushel	1 37	1 50
BEEF, mess, (new)	barrel	10 50	
Cargo, No. 1	"	8 00	8 50
prime,	"	6 00	6 25
BEESWAX, (American)	pound	18	22
BUTTER, inspected, No. 1, new,	"	10	12
CRANBERRIES,	bushel	2 00	2 50
CHEESE, new milk,	"	8	9
skimmed milk,	"	3½	5
FEATHERS, northern, geese,	"	40	45
southern, geese,	"	35	40
FLAX, American,	pound	8	11
FLAXSEED,	bushel	1 33	1 37
FLOUR, Genesee, cash.	barrel	5 37	5 62
Baltimore, Howard str. new	"	5 25	5 50
Baltimore, wharf,		5 25	5 50
Alexandria,	"	5 37	5 50
GRAIN, Corn, northern yellow,	bushel	70	73
southern yellow,	"	70	71
white,	"	68	69
Rye, (scarce) Northern,	"	70	75
Barley,	"	62	65
Oats, Northern, (prime)	"	35	37
HAY, best English, New,	ton	19 00	20 00
Eastern screwed,	"	13 00	14 00
Hard pressed,	"	14 00	15 00
HONEY,	gallon	36	46
HOPS, 1st quality	pound	17	19
2d quality	"	12	14
LARD, Boston, 1st sort,	pound	9	10
Southern, 1st sort,	"	7	8½
LEATHER, Slaughter, sole,	"	17	19
" upper,	lb.	22	23
Dry Hide, sole,	pound	15	17
" upper,	lb.	18	20
Philadelphia, sole,	pound	23	25
Baltimore, sole,	"	22	24
LIME, best sort	cask	80	90
PORK, Mass. inspec., extra clear,	barrel	17 00	18 00
Navy, Mess,	"	14 00	15 00
Bone, middlings,	"		
SEEDS, Herd's Grass	bushel	2 37	2 50
Red Top, northern, (scarce)	"	1 00	1 05
Red Clover, northern,	pound	7	8
White Dutch Honeysuckle	"	30	33
TALLOW, tried,	cwt	7 00	7 10
WOOL, prime or Saxony Fleeces,	pound	62	70
American, full blood, washed	"	48	52
do. 3-4ths do.	"	42	47
do. 1-2 do.	"	37	50
do. 1-4 and common	"	43	48
Native washed,	"	38	40
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,	"	55	60
Northern pulled. 1st Lambs,	"	45	50
Northern pulled. 2d "	"	37	40
Northern pulled. 3d "	"	28	30
Northern pulled. 1st Spinning,		45	48

Southern pulled wool is generally 5 cts. less per lb.

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

HAMS, northern,	pound	8	9
southern,	"	7	8
PORK, whole hogs,	"	6½	7
POULTRY,	"	10	15
BUTTER, (tub)	"	12	14
lump, new,	"	20	22
EGGS,	dozen	14	15
POTATOES,	bushel	33	37
CIDER, (according to quality,)	barrel	2 00	3 00

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY, May 5th, 1834.

Reported for the Daily Advertiser and Patriot.

At Market this day, 210 Beef Cattle, (10 unsold) 12 pairs working Oxen, 17 cows and calves, 50 sheep, and 300 swine.

PRICES. *Beef Cattle*—The limited number at market, caused some speculation and prices advanced considerably; the quality of the cattle was much better than usual. We noticed a few yoke extraordinary fine taken at 6 12 a 6 25; we quote prime at 5 75 a 6; good at 5 33 a 5 50; thin at 5 a 5 25.

Working Oxen—Sales were effected at 52, 60, 70 and $75.

Cows and Calves—We noticed sales at 18, 22, 26, and $29.

Swine—We noticed several lots taken at 5½ for sows and 6½ for barrows, also lots at 5 for sows and 6 for barrows, at retail 6 for sows and 7 for barrows.

SWEET POTATO SLIPS.

THIS day received from New Jersey, a quantity of SWEET POTATO SLIPS in fine order, and will be sold in large or small quantities if applied for soon. GEO. C. BARRETT,
ap 16 New England Seed Store.

MISCELLANY.

INVOCATION TO SPRING.

BY MONTGOMERY.

WINTER! retire,
Thy reign is past;
Hoary sire!
Yield the sceptre of thy sway,
Sound thy trumpet in the blast,
And call thy storms away:
Winter! retire;
Wherefore do thy wheels delay?
Mount the Chariot of thine ire,
And quit the realms of day.

On thy state,
Whirlwinds wait;
And blood-shot meteors lend thee light;
Hence, to dreary arctic regions
Summon thy terrific regions;
Hence, to caves of northern night
Speed thy flight.

From halcyon seas
And purer skies,
O southern breeze
Awake, arise;
Breath of Heaven! benignly blow,
Melt the snow:
Breath of Heaven! unchain the floods,
Warm the woods,
And make the mountains flow.

Auspicious to the Muse's prayer,
The freshening gale
Embalms the vale,
And breathes enchantment through the air;
On its wing
Floats the SPRING,
With glowing eye and golden hair;
Dark before her Angel-form,
She drives the Demon of the storm,
Like Gladness chasing Care.

ASTRONOMICAL.

THE distance of the star Draconis, appears by Dr. Bradley's observations, to be at least four hundred thousand times that of the sun, and the distance of the nearest fixed star not less than forty thousand diameters of the earth's annual orbit; that is, the distance of the earth from the former, is, at least, 38,000,000,000,000 miles, and the latter not less than 7,000,000,000,000. A cannon ball supposing it could preserve the same velocity, would not reach the nearest of the fixed stars in six hundred thousand years! There is goodly work enough to upset any moderate man's notion of time and space. Had this cannon ball taken its departure in the time of Cheops, or even Cheop's grandfather, (if the imagination can roam so far back into the dense blackness of the past,) it would even now be merely at the outset of its journey. Cheop's grandfather dandles young Cheops on his knee: he in turn grows up, waxes in years: builds the everlasting—in our frail acceptation of the word—pyramids, lives to an antediluvian age; dies, is buried and forgotten; successive generations spring up and pass away; states rise and fall; empires expand and decay, and expand again, up to this present 1834, and yet this cannon ball that has been travelling all this time with inconceivable rapidity, is as it were but a hop, step and jump on its way towards the nearest fixed star! This way of thinking will never do. It diminishes our ideas of the sombre stateliness of the past, and makes "hoary antiquity" a thing of yesterday. The bygone glories of departed empires, glooming with added grandeur through the indistinct and spectral past, must seem to a mind familiarized with such unconscionable notions of time and space, but as things that had existence a considerable time ago, last week or the week before.

THE FEMALE.

THE following natural and true description of the parental comfort derived from female children, is from a speech of Burrows, an eminent Irish lawyer: "The love of offspring, the most forcible of all our instincts, is even stronger towards the female, than the male child. It is wise that it should be so—it is more wanted. It is just that it should be so—it is more requited. There is no pillar, on which the head of a parent, anguished by sickness, or by sorrow, can so sweetly repose, as on the bosom of an affectionate daughter. Her attentions are unceasing. She is utterly incapable of remaining inactive. The boy may afford occasional comfort and pride to his family—they may catch glory from his celebrity, and derive support from his acquisitions—but he never communicates the solid and unceasing comforts of life, which are derived from the care and tender solicitude of the female child. She seems destined by Providence to be the perpetual solace and happiness of her parents. Even after her marriage, her filial attentions are unimpaired. She may give her hand and heart to her husband, but still she may share her cares and attentions with her parents, without a pang of jealousy, or distrust from him. He only looks on them, as the assured pledges of her fidelity and the unerring evidences of a good disposition.—*Journal of Women.*

CAFFERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THEIR color is a clear dark brown, hair black but woolly.—The most prominent trait in the character of the Caffer is that of the herdsman, rather than the warrior; for he is never so happy as when engaged in something that is calculated either to increase the numbers or improve the appearance of his cattle. Such is his daily attention to these, that one out of a thousand would be immediately missed. His perfect acquaintance with every little spot on the hide, turn of the horns, or other peculiarity, after having seen an animal once or twice, is indeed astonishing, and says much for his powers of observation.

The Caffer chiefs are in all cases both legislators and judges, whilst "the old men" and favorite courtiers form a kind of jury and council too. The parties appear personally, plead their own cause, and produce their witnesses and proofs.—In their public harangues a man is seldom interrupted, although his speech be continued for hours together; but during this time his antagonist is all attention; when he rises to reply, every argument that has been adduced is taken up in the exact order in which it was delivered, and with as much precision as if answered at the very moment. Memory is their only note book; and although apparently put, on many occasions, to the severest test, they seldom seem to labor under any material difficulty in bringing up all the details of the subject by the astonishing powers of recollection. Their language on those occasions, is generally strong and nervous, and their manner exceedingly manly and dignified. Even the children when about to reply to the most simple questions, step forward, throw back the head, and extend the arm, and give their words a full, slow, and clear enunciation.—*Kay's Travels in Caffraria.*

FRUIT TREES.

ORNAMENTAL TREES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, &c. NURSERY of WILLIAM KENRICK in NEWTON, 5½ miles from Boston, by the City Mills.

This Nursery now comprises a rare and extraordinary collection of fruit trees, Trees and Shrubs of Ornament, Roses, &c. and covers the most of 18 acres. Of *new celebrated Pears alone*, 150 kinds, a part of which, having already been proved in our climate, are specially recommended.—Of Apples 200 kinds—Peaches 115 kinds—Cherries, 55 kinds—Plums, Nectarines, Almonds, Apricots, Quinces, Grape Vines, Currants, Raspberries, Gooseberries, Strawberries, Figs, &c. &c.—selections from the best varieties known—a collection in unequal proportions of 300 varieties of fruit.

White mulberries for silk worms—the fruit poor. Also the MORUS MULTICAULIS or *New Chinese Mulberry*, a beautiful fruit tree, so superior for silk worms to all others.

Of ROSES. A superb collection of from 300 to 400 hardy and China varieties; selections from numerous importations, and first rate sources. White Flowering Horse Chesnuts. Weeping Willows, Catalpas, Mountain Ash, Silver Firs, Venetian Sumach, Altheas, Honeysuckles, Azaleas, &c. &c.—in all, of Ornamental trees, and shrubs, 650 varieties. Of Herbaceous flowering plants, a choice selection of 280 varieties, including the Pæonies, *Moutan and Papareracea*—and 24 other kinds—and 33 splendid varieties of double Dahlias.

Gentlemen are invited to forward their orders early Address to WILLIAM KENRICK, NEWTON. Trees, &c. delivered in Boston free of charge for transportation, and suitably packed, and from thence when ordered duly forwarded, by land or sea.. Or orders will receive the same attention if left with GEO. C. BARRETT, who is agent, at his seed store and New England Farmer Office, Nos. 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston. Catalogues gratis on application. Jy 17

GOOSEBERRIES.

A new importation of superior kinds, just received, of all colors, by WM. KENRICK, Newton.

DAMAGED BISHOPS LAWN AND MUSLINS.

ELIAB STONE BREWER, at No. 414 Washington Street, will open for sale this day,

1 Case wet (but not damaged) Bishops Lawn.
1 do. do. do. Book Muslin.

Also, 1 do. Superfine 6-4 Cambric Dimoties, which will be offered by the Piece at 25 per cent. less than cost of importation. m 14

STRAW CARPETING.

ELIAB STONE BREWER, No. 414 Washington street, has received a lot of 106 pieces superior straw carpeting white and fancy checks, 5-4, 6-4, and 7-4 widths, which he will sell by the piece or yard at very low prices. Also, Canton Straw table matts. istf. a 16.

EDINBURGH REVIEW, NO. CXVIII.

CONTENTS.—Changes required in the Corn Laws. Rhymed Plea for Tolerance. Wiffen's Memoirs of the House of Russell. Secondary Punishments, Transportation. Kay's Travels in Caffraria. Law as to Libels against Christianity. Miss Aiken's Memoirs of Charles the First. The Bridgewater Bequest—Whewell's Astronomy and General Physics. Tory Views and Machinations. English Corporations and Endowments. The Church of England. Thackeray's History of the Earl of Chatham. Quarterly list of New Publications. Index.

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